

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT DAILIES TURN ATTENTION TO SALZBURG MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND SADAT, WITH PRO-SOVIET "ASH SHAAB" SEEING IT USEFUL ONLY AS PRELUDE TO GENEVA; PRO-IRAQ "BEIRUT" SEEING IT AS INDICATION U.S. STILL HOPES TO SEE SERIOUS MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE; AND PRO-CAIRO "AL-ANWAR" STRESSING NECESSITY FOR U.S. TO DECLARE WHETHER IT IS PROTECTING ISRAEL WITHIN PRE-67 OR PRESENT BORDERS. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING PRO-CAIRO "AL-ANWAR", DESCRIBING FORD-SADAT MEETING AS "WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EGYPTIAN MOVES AIMED AT PREVENTING RETURN TO STATE OF NO-WAR NO-PEACE," COMMENTS: PRESIDENT SADAT...SAID IN HIS RECENT SPEECH UNCLASSIFIED

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WASHINGTON SHOULD DETERMINE ITS ATTITUDE CLEARLY AND

DECLARE WHETHER IT PROTECTS ISRAEL OR ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS.... FROM ITS COMMENTS ON SALZBURG MEETING IT APPEARS ISRAEL IS APPREHENSIVE OF THE RESULTS. ITS CAMPAIGN HAS NOW REACHED POINT OF SAYING MEETING PROVES U.S. POLICY REASSESSMENT HAS ENDED AND FORD AND KISSINGER NOW ARE PURSUING UNWISE AND BIASED (PRO-ARAB) POLICY WHICH AMERICAN JEWS SHOULD MOBILIZE CONGRESS TO RESIST.

3. PRO-SOVIET "ASH SHAAB" FOUND IT "USEFUL THAT PRESIDENT'S SADAT AND FORD MEET IN SALZBURG FOR FURTHER STUDY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND TO ENABLE AMERICA TO REASSESS ITS MIDEAST POLICY." HOWEVER, THE PAPER ADDED, "WE SEE NO NEED FOR MEETING TO BE RENEWAL OF DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION, WHICH ENDED IN FAILURE. WE ALSO SEE NO NEED FOR RESORTING TO SO-CALLED INTERIM SETTLEMENT CONFINED TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL, AND WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH SETTLEMENT WOULD PAVE WAY TO GENEVA. ON CONTRARY, IT SEEMS TO US THAT ANY LIMITED AGREEMENT IS LIABLE TO CREATE SENSITIVITIES AMONG OTHER CONFRONTATION PARTIES.... TO AVOID THAT AND TO STRENGTHEN ARAB SOLIDARITY, WEPREFER THAT NEGOTIATING ARABS GO TO GENEVA WHILE IN COMMON ALIGNMENT TOWARD ISRAEL."

4. CHIEF EDITOR SULEIMAN FIRIZLI OF PRO-IRAQ "BEIRUT" COMMENTS: "CONVENINGOF GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING FORD-SADAT SUMMIT MEETING IN SALZBURG FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT FAILURE TO CONVENE CONFERENCE WOULD CONSITTUTE EMBARRASSMENT TO PEACE EFFORTS AND BRING CHARGES OF EVASION AGAINST AMERICA AND COLLUSION OR WEAKNESS AGAINST EGYPT.... BUT CONVENING OF CONFERENCE IS FORMALITY UNRELATED TO CRUX OF PROBLEM...BECAUSE U.S. STILL INSISTS THAT SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE BILATERAL, FIRST BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL... AMERICANS WANT GENEVA TO BE USED FOR SIGNING BI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS REACHED THROUGH OTHER DIPLOMATIC MEANS...LEST GENEVA CONFERENCE OPEN WITH DISPUTES AT FIRST SESSION AND SUBSEQUENTLY COLLAPSE."

5. CHEF EDITOR MICHEL ABU JAWDEH OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" CONTINUES HIS RECENT CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM OF U.S. POLICY BY SAYING: "DR. KISSINGER HAS CONFIRMED UNCLASSIFIED

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ARGUMENT THAT THERE IS NO AMERICAN FONPOLICY, ESPECIALLY IN MIDEAST, BY ANNOUNCING THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL DRAW UP NEW POLICY FOR ITSELF IN MIDEAST AFTER PRESIDENT FORD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND ISRAELI PREMIER NEXT MONTH.... IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT DR. KISSINGER CAN CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT HIS COUNTRY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL WANT AFTER HE UNDOUBTEDLY LEARNED WHAT THE TWO PARTIES WANTED AT THE TIME HE CARRIED OUT HIS FAMOUS

MISSION WHICH FAILED."

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